

Written Testimony Submitted to the Ohio Redistricting Commission
September 14, 2021 Hearing

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Thank you to the Co-Chairs, Ohio Redistricting Commission, Speaker Cupp and Senator Vernon Sykes, for the opportunity to provide written testimony. I will NOT be able to testify in person due to health concerns in my family.

In watching the past several days of hearings, I am struck by the extent the Republican map went to make it seem they were adhering to the constitutional provisions for the drawing of districts and ignore the clear intent of those provisions with respect to civil rights and any sense of proportionality.

The proposed Republican map is egregious in its calculated effort to even further gerrymander the state despite making the district shape “look” better.

Leading up to the 2018 vote for redistricting reform which garnered over 70% approval from voters, I was one of many who gathered Fair Districts petition signatures. People from across the political spectrum signed the petition eagerly when they came to see the horribly gerrymandered districts in which they lived – and anticipating even worse for the future. This overwhelming support obviously carried over to the voting results on the issue.

The proposed Republican map is NOT what the voters clearly mandated to be done.

The map must afford proportional representation. The map must take into account minority communities. The map must keep like communities together. Do the work and get something done for Ohio that will actually make a positive difference for Ohio and for the representation of its citizens.

Consider the many good maps submitted to the commission which accomplished the above to a far, far greater extent.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony on the redistricting process. I look forward to and will be commenting on proposed districts maps when they become available.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denis M. Osowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Denis" being the most prominent part.

Denis M. Osowski